(b) the area covered by the National Wastelands Development Board so far and the details objective of its future projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The National Commission on Agriculture (1976) estimated an area of about 175 million hectares are being degraded of which 150 million hectares are subject to water and wind erosion and about 25 million hectares are degraded due to special problems.

(b) The area covered under afforestation programme in the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan is 5.07 million hectares. The following objectives will be kept in view while formulating future projects:

(i) Taking the programme of afforestation to the people, especially small and marginal farmers and the landless with emphasis on the development of fuelwood and fodder.

(ii) Widespread involvement of non-Government agencies in afforestation.

(iii) Evolving ways and means of securing institutional support for social forestry.

Sites to Rehri Holders in West Patel Nagar New Delhi

2739. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi had allotted sites measuring 7'x5' to 33 remaining licenced rehri holders in West Patel Nagar, New Delhi during September, 1987 for construction of stalls and MCD had also sought local police help in this matter;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the police force was withdrawn from the scene as construction of stalls was stopped by anti-social elements;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for withdrawal of the police force;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have received representations in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what remedial action is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Lakshadweep

2740. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been spent for the development of Lakshadweep Islands recently; and

(b) what were the areas of such expenditure, in detail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) As per information from Lakshadweep Administration, total expenditure under Plan incurred upto 29th February, 1988 during 1987-88 is Rs. 1266.24 lakhs.